

NEWS RELEASE**Sheep Inventory & Wool Production
January 30, 2004****NORTH DAKOTA SHEEP INVENTORY DECLINES****North Dakota**

All sheep and lamb inventory in North Dakota on January 1, 2004, totaled 97,000 head, down 16 percent from 2003, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This two-year downward trend brings North Dakota to the smallest state flock since records were kept starting in 1920.

Breeding sheep inventory declined 13,000 head to 71,000. That is 15 percent lower than the 84,000 head last year and the lowest since records were kept starting in 1905. Ewes one year old and older at 57,000 head, were down from 71,000 in 2003. Rams were slightly lower than a year ago at 2,000. Replacement lambs totaled 12,000 head, up from 10,500 last year.

Market sheep and lambs totaled 26,000 head, down from 31,000 on January 1, 2003. Seventy-two percent of the market lambs were 85 pounds or more, down from 77 percent last year. Twelve percent of the total were lambs less than 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65-84 pounds, 44 percent 85-105 pounds and 28 percent were more than 105 pounds. Only 1,000 head of the total were market sheep while 25,000 were market lambs.

The 2003 lamb crop of 80,000 head was down 20 percent from 2002 making it the lowest since records were kept starting in 1924. The 2003 lambing rate was 113 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, compared with 118 in 2002.

Shorn wool production during 2003 was 650,000 pounds, down 18 percent from 2002 and lowest on record. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 70,000 head, down from 93,000 head during 2002. Average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.60 per pound. Price was steady from last year. The total value of wool was \$390,000, down 18 percent from \$474,000 in 2002 which was due mainly to the lower volume of wool shorn.

United States

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2004, totaled 6.09 million head, down 3 percent from 2003 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended downward since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.48 million head on January 1, 2004, down 4 percent from 4.66 million head on January 1, 2003. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.60 million head, were 4 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2004, totaled 1.61 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2003. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-seven percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 16 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 23 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 30 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2003 lamb crop of 4.12 million head was down 5 percent from 2002 and established a new record low. The 2003 lambing rate was 109 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2003, unchanged from 2002.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2003 was 38.1 million pounds, down 8 percent from 2002. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.06 million head, down 8 percent from 2002. The average price paid for wool sold in 2003 was \$0.72 per pound for a total value of \$27.4 million dollars, up 25 percent from \$21.9 million dollars in 2002.

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SHEEP INVENTORY, January 1

Class	North Dakota		United States	
	2003	2004	2003	2004
	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- 1,000 Head ---	
All Sheep and Lambs	115.0	97.0	6,300.0	6,090.0
Total Market	31.0	26.0	1,642.2	1,610.0
Lambs	30.0	25.0	1,575.2	1,542.7
Under 65 Pounds	2.5	3.0	441.0	433.0
65 to 84 Pounds	4.5	4.0	266.3	255.5
85 to 105 Pounds	11.5	11.0	393.0	367.4
Over 105 Pounds	11.5	7.0	474.9	486.8
Sheep	1.0	1.0	66.8	67.3
Total Breeding	84.0	71.0	4,658.0	4,480.0
Ewes, One Year & Older	71.0	57.0	3,770.0	3,601.0
Rams, One Year & Older	2.5	2.0	193.0	188.5
Replacement Lambs	10.5	12.0	695.0	690.5
Lamb Crop ^{1/}	100.0	80.0	4,357.0	4,120.0
From Breeding Ewes 1 yr + Jan 1	85.0	71.0	3,980.0	3,770.0
Rate Per 100 Ewes 1 yr +	118	113	109	109

^{1/} Preceding year.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND VALUE

State ^{1/}	Sheep Shorn		Weight per Fleece		Production		Price per Pound		Value ^{2/}	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	--- 1,000 Head ---		--- Pounds ---		--- 1,000 Pounds ---		--- Cents ---		--- 1,000 Dollars ---	
North Dakota	93.0	70.0	8.5	9.3	790	650	60	60	474	390
California	510.0	500.0	7.1	7.0	3,600	3,500	45	79	1,620	2,765
Colorado	460.0	360.0	6.7	7.2	3,070	2,580	57	74	1,750	1,909
Minnesota	150.0	140.0	6.8	6.8	1,020	950	20	30	204	285
Montana	289.0	272.0	9.6	9.5	2,788	2,597	76	103	2,119	2,675
South Dakota	375.0	330.0	8.3	8.0	3,105	2,625	45	76	1,397	1,995
Texas	850.0	800.0	7.0	7.0	5,950	5,600	68	90	4,046	5,040
Wyoming	420.0	390.0	8.9	9.4	3,750	3,650	73	110	2,738	4,015
United States	5,476.0	5,057.0	7.5	7.5	41,322	38,114	53	72	21,876	27,408

^{1/} Published are a few selected states from the National release. ^{2/} Production multiplied by marketing year average price.

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~ Compiled and Published by ~



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